

DISTRICT NO. 2
GEN. FILE TITLE:

CASE FILE NO. NY:S 12110

REPORT MADE

AT: New York, New York
DATE: August 14, 1968BY: Anthony S. Pohl
Narcotic Agent

RELATED FILES

OTHER OFFICERS

Albert W. Seeley
Customs Agent

SUBJECT OF THIS MEMORANDUM

Interview of Louis DOUHERET
@ Jean-Claude LEFRANC conducted on August 8,
1968, at the Federal Penitentiary, Atlanta,
Georgia.

RECOMMENDATION

PENDING:

CLOSE:

FURTHER INVESTIGATION:

XXXX

DETAILS (If report is over two pages, it should be summarized in a separate page.)

S U M M A R Y

This report pertains to the interview of Louis DOUHERET conducted on August 8, 1968, at the Federal Penitentiary, Atlanta, Georgia. In the course of the interview DOUHERET revealed that from 1958 to 1964, he had been receiving and distributing in the United States large quantities of heroin supplied by the ORSINI organization. DOUHERET further revealed that during this period the smuggling of the heroin was the responsibility of Jean NEBBIA who was directing the activity of Jean BOUSQUET and Victor MERZ.

1. Reference is made to a memorandum report No. 24161, dated October 20, 1961, subject: Joseph ORSINI. Further reference is made to a memorandum report No. 24928, dated April 9, 1962, subject: alleged contact of the ORSINI organization at New York, New York. In both these reports, which I wrote while stationed at the Marseille Branch Office, District #17, I had outlined the structure of the ORSINI organization and had identified Jean-Claude LEFRANC as their representative in the United States.

2. Upon request from AUSA William Tandy and assisted by Customs Agent Albert W. Seeley, I interviewed on August 8, 1968, Louis DOUHERET @ Jean-Claude LEFRANC. DOUHERET is presently serving a 20-year sentence imposed as a result of his participation in NY:S 12110 which had resulted in a seizure of 95 kilograms of heroin.

3. It should be noted that DOUHERET had been initially interviewed after his arrest, and that he had cooperated to a somewhat limited extent. At that time DOUHERET had stated that since 1958, he had received rather small quantities of heroin (6 to 12 kilograms) delivered to the United States by such smugglers as Georges PONTILLO and one Victor MERZ. DOUHERET also stated that he had made deliveries of heroin to one Frank CAMPANA in New York, New York, after having for many years delivered heroin to Beni INDEVIGLIO as well as Arnold ROMANO and his brother Dominick ROMANO. DOUHERET had given this cooperation with the hopes that he

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(Continued)

SIGNATURES

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Anthony S. Pohl
(NARCOTIC AGENT)APPROVED: Edward A. Theisen Jr.
(DISTRICT SUPERVISOR)

(Acting)

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would receive some consideration at the time of his trial. However, his hopes never materialized.

4. DOUHERET was consequently quite reluctant at the beginning of the interview. He became cooperative only after I had confronted him with certain details of his activity in Paris, France, during April, 1962, (Such as the fact that he had met Fernand ORSINI at the Cercle De L'Opera, Paris, France.

5. After this initial exchange and a complete examination of his present predicament, DOUHERET, in response to my question, stated that he was still in a cooperative mood. He added that his cooperation would be subject to certain consideration, namely one, a reduction in sentence, two, a transfer to another penitentiary where he would feel safe, three, immunity from prosecution for all violations committed by him, and which he would now reveal.

6. I stressed to DOUHERET that his cooperation would have to be complete and include, but not necessarily be limited to, giving detail statements to Enforcement Agents, testifying in open court, testifying in response to letter rogatories from France, accept to be interviewed by French Police Officers. DOUHERET stated that he would accept these conditions. I then told DOUHERET that I would transmit his proposal to AUSA Tandy, who would definitely keep him advised of any decision being reached.

7. DOUHERET was very bitter about the fact that the "company" had dropped him and did not continue to assist him. He said that the driving force in his "company" was greed backed up by a huge stupidity. He remarked "we have been completely abandoned by the gang" and added that when his wife was interrogated by the French Police, no help has been offered her. I reminded DOUHERET that his "company" had supplied him with a lawyer, Mr. RAFFIN. DOUHERET replied that "they also dropped that as soon as they were sure that I would not testify." When asked to elaborate DOUHERET said that he was told by Mr. RAFFIN to wait for the end of the negotiation with AUSA Tandy before accepting to testify. DOUHERET added "the end of the negotiation never came, I don't know what happened."

8. In answer to a question DOUHERET stated that he had been sent to the United States by Joseph ORSINI to set up contact with Beni INDEVIGLIO with whom ORSINI had been in jail. DOUHERET added that he, himself, later contacted Arnold ROMANO whose address he had been given by ORSINI. When asked to whom he was delivering heroin, DOUHERET stated that he was dealing with Arnold ROMANO, but making deliveries to Dominick ROMANO. These deliveries took place between 1959 and 1964. DOUHERET also delivered heroin to INDEVIGLIO (now deceased), and on three occasions he delivered up to 60 kilograms of heroin to Frank CAMPANA and his associate

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John DOE @ HARRY. DOUHERET explained that he had been introduced to CAMPANA by one of the ROMANOS, but CAMPANA was a rather small customer, having bought no more than 120 kilograms. DOUHERET also stated that he had been introduced to Frank DIOGUARDI about one week before their arrest. This transaction was an accidental matter.

9. When asked for the origin of the heroin, DOUHERET said that the ORSINIS were definitely not involved in the production of heroin. He said "all the company was concerned with was the sale of the merchandise." According to DOUHERET the ORSINI organization did buy up a large portion of the heroin being produced in clandestine laboratories in France. They were assisted in that operation by Achille CECCHINI and the FRANCISI brothers (Marcel, Xavier and Jean). He revealed that the heroin was sold, delivered to the United States customer, at \$5,000 per kilogram. As I expressed surprise at the low price, he said "well, you have to take into consideration the huge quantities we were selling."

10. DOUHERET explained that the heroin was smuggled to the United States by ships. However, DOUHERET was extremely hesitant to give exact information on the smuggling operation. I then showed him a picture of Jean BOUSQUET who had reportedly been seen in the company of Jean NEBBIA sometime in 1964. DOUHERET immediately identified BOUSQUET, and admitted that he had received deliveries of heroin from BOUSQUET. DOUHERET stated that BOUSQUET had been assisted in the smuggling operation by Victor MERZ.

11. DOUHERET described MERZ as an ex-captain in the French army who was the son-in-law of one "MARTEL", the past owner of some of the biggest houses of prostitution in Paris. As NEBBIA was a "pimp", he apparently met MERZ through MARTEL. He then approached the ORSINI organization sometime in 1959 with a smuggling scheme and according to the agreement reached, NEBBIA was to be responsible for the smuggling of the heroin and the operation of MERZ and BOUSQUET. As it turned out, BOUSQUET and MERZ operated, however, almost independently, and NEBBIA did not supervise anything. DOUHERET estimated that between 1959 and 1964, when the MERZ-BOUSQUET smuggling operation was active, the ORSINI organization shipped an average of 90 kilograms of heroin to the United States every month.

12. The mechanic of the smuggling operation was as follows: BOUSQUET was utilizing a Citroen car which had been "rigged up" for the smuggling by MERZ. BOUSQUET and MERZ would get the heroin delivered to them in Paris by a member of the organization identified by DOUHERET as Jacques HERMINI from Marseille, France. BOUSQUET and MERZ would have the heroin transported to the United States and would then personally deliver the heroin to DOUHERET in New York City, usually at the latter's residence. When in New York City, BOUSQUET and MERZ, utilizing their true identity, usually stayed at a hotel located on 10th Avenue and 49th Street, New York, New York.

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13. DOUHERET would handle delivery to the customer in the United States, and usually utilized hotel rooms to make the deliveries. DOUHERET would place the heroin in a hotel room and meet the customer, receive the money from him, give him the keys to the room, and the customer could then pick up the heroin whenever he felt like it. On occasions, DOUHERET received the money after the delivery had been completed.

14. DOUHERET stated that the association between BOUSQUET and the ORSINI organization was stopped in 1964. The reason was that BOUSQUET had been given a "load" to smuggle, and that the car with the heroin had been stolen on the Boulevard Suchet, apparently near BOUSQUET's residence in Paris, France. DOUHERET said that he did not believe the story, and while in France, in 1964, he "investigated" the matter and found that BOUSQUET had "faked the entire incident. We got together, Joseph ORSINI, Fernand ORSINI, NEBBIA, PALLA, myself, and we fined BOUSQUET, who had to pay for the larger part of the merchandise. Then we dropped him." DOUHERET said that as a result of his "investigation" he had determined that BOUSQUET was always using the same type of car for the smuggling of the heroin. DOUHERET thought that this was a dangerous method, and demanded that new methods be utilized. Apparently NEBBIA then came up with Samuel DESIST's connections.

15. Upon questioning DOUHERET said that BOUSQUET could have renewed his association with the ORSINI organization, but that he found this very doubtful. He is under the impression that BOUSQUET subsequently "got connected" with another gang and other customers in the United States. According to DOUHERET, NEBBIA only operated for the ORSINI organization, and has never been involved in the smuggling of heroin for any other organization. He stressed that "the company" would not have tolerated this member to be engaged in several smuggling ventures.

16. DOUHERET confirmed that, in agreement with Joseph ORSINI, the "little LUCCAROTTI" was to replace him in New York for the delivery of the heroin, but the deal never went through because of the arrest in NY:S 12110. DOUHERET denied vehemently knowing who was "behind" ROMANO. Upon questioning, he emphatically denied having ever met or dealt in any way with Santos TRAFFICANTE. He said he knew of him through Mr. RAFFIN who had made a statement on that subject, but that he could not understand why Mr. RAFFIN had brought up the name.

17. DOUHERET gave the following structure of the "company" as he refers to the ORSINI organization. The head of the company is Joseph ORSINI. He is assisted directly by his brother, Fernand ORSINI. Jean NEBBIA was in charge of smuggling, supervising the operation of MERZ and BOUSQUET. Antoine PALLA and one Marius MANUELLI were financially interested in the

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operation. Jacques HERMINI was responsible for bringing the heroin from the southern part of France to Paris. He, DOUHERET, was the American representative in charge of distribution of "the merchandise" on the American market.

18. DOUHERET stressed that the ORSINI organization always smuggled their heroin directly to the United States from France, never to Canada, and never to South America. As for continued operation, DOUHERET is convinced that ORSINI is still delivering heroin to his past customers, with whom he could easily have re-established contact.

19. DOUHERET confirmed that the South American heroin smuggling operation is controlled by August Joseph RICORD, an ex-member of the Parisian underworld who now resides in Buenos Aires, Argentina. RICORD, according to DOUHERET, is a close friend of the ORSINIS, and buys heroin from them utilizing his nephew Louis BONSIGNOUR @ Philippe SPADARO as the middleman.

20. DOUHERET said that the ORSINIS and RICORD have some arrangement whereby RICORD sent cocaine to France where ORSINI has it "purified". The cocaine is then sent back to be ultimately smuggled to the United States. The smugglers usually utilized by RICORD are "occasionals" who are being recruited with the thought in mind that they are expendable.

21. It should be noted that August RICORD fled France at ^{the} liberation of France from the German occupation. During the occupation he was an extremely active member of the notorious "French GESTAPO" and as such had been sentenced to death. The smuggling method he utilizes and the instructions given to the couriers remind one of the operations of the French underground during the German occupation. As a member of the French GESTAPO RICORD must have appreciated the efficiency of the methods used by the French underground, and he now utilizes to his advantage the methods he at one time was fighting.

22. As DOUHERET was anxious to return to his work in the "potato-peeling room" in order not to attract undue attention, the interview had to be discontinued. Upon leaving, DOUHERET stated that he would be available for further interviews upon request.

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